

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 1, 2005. Claims 1 to 4, 9, 10 and 18 to 20 are in the application, with Claims 5 to 8 and 11 to 17 having been cancelled and Claims 18 to 20 being newly added herein. Claim 1 is independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Turning to the restriction and election requirements, the Office Action acknowledges the Response To Restriction/Election Requirement dated August 8, 2005, and makes the requirement to restrict and the requirement to elect final. However, the Office Action erroneously states that Applicant traverses the election requirement. On the contrary, while the requirement to restrict was made with traverse, the requirement to elect between the alleged species of Embodiment 1 and Embodiment 2 was “made without traverse.” (Response page 2).

Turning now to the rejections, Claims 1 to 4, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the phrase “a second region from which said insulating film is removed by machining” in Claim 1 lacks sufficient structure. Claim 1 has been amended, and the amendments are believed to render the rejections moot. However, the language cited by the Office Action is clear on its face such that one skilled in the art would readily understand its meaning. Accordingly, this should be viewed as a traversal of the rejections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 4 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,644,703 (Oketani) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,841,908 (Hasegawa). Claim 10 was

rejected under § 103(a) over allegedly admitted prior art in view of Oketani and Hasegawa. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 1 defines an electro-magnetic actuator using an electromagnet. The actuator comprises a movable member, a stator, and an iron core constituting at least a part of the movable member or the stator. The iron core includes a plurality of steel plates fixed to each other via insulating members, a surface, of the plurality of steel plates, located on an opposing side of the movable member and the stator, and a coating member coating the surface.

The applied references are not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claim 1, and in particular, are not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a surface, of a plurality of steel plates, located on an opposing side of a movable member and a stator, and a coating member coating the surface.

Oketani is directed to a stator for a rotary machine in which an insulating resin 100 coats a stator iron core end face 15f and an inner wall face of a slot 15a (column 6, lines 26 to 31 and Fig. 4 of Oketani). This insulating resin 100 is applied to provide insulation between a stator coil 16 and the inner wall face of the slot 15a (column 6, lines 7 to 10). However, Oketani is not seen to disclose or to suggest a surface, of a plurality of steel plates, located on an opposing side of a movable member and a stator, and a coating member coating the surface.

Hasegawa is not seen to cure the deficiencies of Oketani. Accordingly, independent Claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

The other claims in the application, including newly-added Claims 18 to 20, are each dependent from the independent claim and are believed to be allowable over the

applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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